sanctioned by the Government of India and are at various stages of implementation at present:

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Pilot District	Sanctioned Project Cost	GOI share	First installment released
1.	Jorhat	1275.000	1188.600	356.580
2.	Kamrup	1000.000	935.000	280.500
3.	Sonitpur	1181.000	1103.489	331.047

Under AUWSP, 12 projects belonging to the State of Assam have been approved up to the year 1999-2000 at an estimated of cost Rs. 2448.44 lakh.

Providing drinking water and sanitation to rural population

2842. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of our rural population is devoid of pure drinking water and sanitation ever after more than five decades of our independence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any time-bound scheme has been formulated by Governments to provide pure drinking water and better sanitation to all the rural masses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) As far as Rural Water Supply Programme is concerned, drinking water supply being a State subject, Scheme for providing drinking water facilities to rural habitations are implemented by the State from their own resources. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme(ARWSP) and the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). Powers have been delegated

to the States to plan, sanction and implement individual rural drinking water supply schemes.

The status of coverage of rural habitations with drinking water supply facilities in the country as per the information received from the State Governments till 31-1-2001, is as follows:

Total	Fully covered	Partially covered	Not covered
1422664	1212243	187139	23282

As regards Central Rural Sanitation Programme, as per the available information and records, the rural sanitation coverage in the country is estimated as 16 to 20 per cent of the total rural households. The major factors contributing to lower coverage are (i) low priority given to information, education and communication (IEC) programme, (ii) promotion of a single model i.e. Standard Twin Pit Pour Flush Latrine, (iii) heavy reliance on subsidy, (iv) inadequate participation of beneficiaries, (v) inadequate NGO / Private sector involvement, (vi) non-involvement of community based institutions, etc.

(c) and (d) The National Agenda for Governance (NAG) of the Government envisages provision of drinking water to all rural habitations in the country by the year 2004. Based on the information furnished by the State Governments, a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) has been prepared in this regard.

As regards Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), the Planning Commission has suggested the target of 25% of rural sanitation coverage by the end of the Ninth Plan period. The CRSP has been restructured *w.e.f.* 1-4-1999, which envisages a demand-driven, community led and people centered approach. The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) which lays stress on IEC, School Sanitation, Alternate Delivery Mechanism, Individual household latrines and Sanitary Complex for women along with the different technological options as per the local requirements is being

implemented in 'project mode' in identified 150 pilot districts in the country.

Government departments providing funds for rural development to NGOs

2843. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Government departments who grant funds for rural development to NGOs;

(b) whether any vigil is kept on the NGOs so that the grant may be honestly spent on rural development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Release of funds for watershed programme

2844. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to release the funds under various schemes of Rural Development in time to implement the watershed programme more vigorously;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to achieve the task in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.